

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer or the subject matter contained therein; and claims 1, 4 and 32 are amended. No new matter is added. Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate that claims 8-17 and 33-35 are allowed; and claims 4 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that claims 1-6 and 18-32 are also allowable in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 18-23 and 24-31 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 7 and 11 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,859,643. Applicants submit that the rejection has been obviated as a Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winters, U.S. Pat. No. 5,675,285, has been rendered moot due to the incorporation of allowable subject matter of claim 7 into independent claims 1 and 32. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

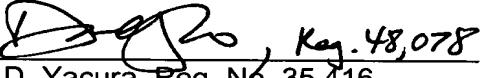
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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